(a) whether it is a fact that because of tiny airborne particles released by the industries, India is getting Five per cent less sunlight than it did twenty years ago because of which the country is getting less rainfall as well as reduced agriculture productivity and green cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has set any norms for the industry to reduce air pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) levels in ambient air are showing an increasing trend in many areas in the country due to rise in population, increasing number of vehicles and DG sets, rapid urbanization, industrialisation, construction activities and agricultural practices.

However, there is no conclusive evidence at this point of time that there is reduction in sunlight because of these tiny particles resulting in less rainfall as well as reduced agriculture productivity and green cover.

(c) and (d) Emission standards for various categories of industry including 17 categories of highly polluting industries and DG sets have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 to reduce air pollution.

Pakistan's hand in 26/11 attack

438. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been established Pakistan's hand in 26/11 Bombay terrorist attack and provided full facts of the total involvement of Pakistan;

(b) whether Pakistan has pointed out that it would go into the cases but not hand over the culprit;

(c) whether Extradition Act, 1972 of Pakistan specifies that Islamabad can hand over anyone accused of terrorism or any other criminal act in a foreign country to Government even if there is no extradition treaty; and

(d) the latest position and stands taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On 05 January 2009, the Government of Pakistan was given material linking the Mumbai attack of 26-29 November, 2008 to elements in Pakistan. In their response on 12th February 2009, the Pakistan authorities have confirmed that elements in Pakistan were involved in the terrorist attacks on Mumbai. Government of Pakistan has conveyed that in order to support further investigation/prosecution being initiated in Pakistan, additional material/evidence be made available to it.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government has been guided by the two objectives of ensuring that the perpetrators who planned, organised and trained the terrorists in Pakistan are brought to justice, and that the infrastructure of terrorism which exists in Pakistan is dismantled to prevent recurrence of such attacks.

Visit of British Foreign Secretary

439. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has reacted sharply to visiting British Foreign Secretary on his views on Jammu and Kashmir published in U.K. newspapers that resolving the Kashmir disputes would help deny extremists in the region one of the main reasons for taking to arms;

(b) whether U.K. approved that the trail of terrorists by Pakistan in their own country is agreeable;

(c) whether almost all other countries agreed to India's proposal for immediate action against the culprits and hand over them to India; and

(d) if so, the number of countries which supported India and the help they have provided to India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In response to the visiting UK Foreign Secretary views on Jammu and Kashmir published in the UK newspaper, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs conveyed to the media: "Mr. Miliband is entitled to his views, which are clearly his own and are evolving. India is a free country and, even if we do not share his views, he is free to express them. However, we do not need unsolicited advice on internal issues in India like J and K." In the official talks, was unequivocally conveyed to the UK Foreign Secretary that it would be a grave mistake to link Kashmir to Mumbai and other terrorist related incidents.

(b) In a statement to the UK Parliament on December 15, 2008, the British PM Gordon Brown had stated that the plots hatched in the FATA have a direct impact on the UK: of the security services' top priority terrorist investigations, three quarters have links to Pakistan.

(c) and (d) The international community has strongly condemned the Mumbai terrorist attacks and has shared our concerns that perpetrators of terror attacks be brought to justice. The international community has also worked with us, using its influence on Pakistan to ensure that the terrorist infrastructure and the support provided to such elements is put to an end.